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EXTRACTS FROM THE LETTER-BOOKS OF LIEUTENANT ENOS REEVES, OF THE PENNSYLVANIA LINE.

CONTRIBUTED BY JOHN B. REEVES, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

(Continued from page 85.)

[LETTER 202.]

“On Saturday last after taking leave of my acquaintances at Reading, I mounted and rode to Potts Grove where I baited my horse, refreshed and pushed on towards the Yellow Springs, crossed the Schuylkill at ——— tavern on French Creek, a little after dark. On Sunday morning I rode to Colonel Evans’ where I breakfasted, settled some business with the Squire, received a Letter from Lieut. McLean, then rode on to the Springs where I met old friends —McCarnehan (his family) at Lt. McLean’s. I dined with them and spent the day, when we retired to Mr. Jones’s my old quarters (now McLean’s), who were very glad to see me, and entertained me with the best the house could afford.

“On Monday Lt. McLean and I set off for the City of Philadelphia. Came round by the Springs, lost our way by going the back road and found ourselves near the Bull Tavern at the Valley Forge. We dined near Moor Hall, came thro’ our old Encampment, or rather first huts of the whole army. Some of the officers’ huts are inhabited, but the greater part are decayed, some are split up into rails, and a number of fine fields are to be seen on the level ground that was cleared, but in places where they have let the shoots grow, it is already like a half grown young wood.

“We crossed to the Lancaster Road near the Spread Eagle, and then made the best of our way to the city of Philadelphia, where we arrived a little after dark, and put up

at the sign of ye Battle of Monmouth. Our troops arrived on Sunday and are encamped near the Four mile stone.

"I left the company and repaired to Miss Carither's, where I met Miss Morris and several of my acquaintances—I spent the evening there, and returned to my Quarters about 10 o'clock.

"Yesterday I visited my Aunt's family and found them all in perfect health, and very happy to see me. I took a round through all the circle of my acquaintances in the town—Drank tea and spent the evening at Mrs. Gardner's, in a fine little circle of very agreeable company.

"Sept^r 1781."

[LETTER 203.]

"I cannot quit Reading without doing this justice to the Ladies of it—that they are exceeding sociable and very polite. On the evening before the party marched on half an hour's notice, all the young ladies of the place were assembled to a dance that a few of us had at Mrs. Whitehead's. As there were not ladies sufficient for partners for all the officers, we invited as many as could be supply'd and had a genteel little Family Hop (as we term'd it, that no one could take offence), but in fact we had more satisfaction and as many couples on the floor as at the large Assembly. We had no supper, but apples, nuts &c., substituted in the room of it, with wine, punch &c. The evening was spent with all the mirth and gaiety possible, and always to be found in companies that can be free together in preference to large and fixed Assemblies.

"The company broke up about one o'clock in the morning, when each waited on his partner home and then retired each to his own quarters.

"Captains Patterson and Lusk, Lieuts. Pursell and Le Roy were order'd for the detachment from our Regiment. But it being so much against Pursell to march to the Southward, that he was determined to resign rather than go. I had engaged to go in his stead [*badly torn*]. The alternative is that Pursell is determined and gave in his resignation

this day. I opposed it with all my might, and made use of every argument I was master of to dissuade him from it, but all to no purpose.

“Orders came out this afternoon to hold ourselves in readiness to march tomorrow morning at eight o’clock, the Assembly at half past, and to march off at 9 o’clock. We have been obliged to stay very close to camp, on account of deliveries of clothing, arms, accoutrements. I have spent the day in the City, and am as busy as you please in getting in readiness for a long march.

“PHILADA.

“Oct’ 2 1781.”

[LETTER 204.]

“We march’d from our encampment about 11 o’clock yesterday, crossed Schuylkill bridge, and marched into the city, down Chestnut Street about one o’clock, the detachment divided into two Battalions. We marched down Front street and embarq’d near the Drawbridge, hauled off in the Stream, and fell down opposite Almond street. About an hour after the most of the officers went on shore and received from the Paymaster one month’s pay in hard money; *the first of the kind that any of our Line ever received.* Having a number of necessaries to purchase, I was kept busy ’till almost night. I called in at Mr. Gardner’s to bid adieu and drank Tea; I then drank Tea at my Aunt’s, with the family, and the very agreeable Miss Morris.

“I had everything put on board and then spent the evening with Miss Morris, Miss Carithers. Took my leave of the girls and my aunt, and retired on board the vessel about 11 o’clock at night.

“I never experienced so much of female friendship as in the above two ladies, everything in their power to serve me was done and much more than I have in power to tell, friendship so sincere and so refined ought to meet a suitable return. On examination I found things packed up for my use that I had no idea of, such as they knew I should stand in need of. I must say that I was sensibly affected at taking

my leave of people that I have such a real esteem for, (Esteem is too cold a word), let me say warmth of Friendship for. I spent my time when I was last in the city with as much real satisfaction, as ever I enjoyed in the same place in my life.

“We weighed anchor about sunrise in the morning, when the tide was about half spent and but little wind, fell down with the tide and the little wind, a little below Billingsport, where we went on shore and dined. The fort at Billingsport is not in good repair at present; Fort Mifflin on Mud Island is in a tolerable state of defence, if it were well mounted and man’d. This is the place famous for holding out against the British fleet for two months, before which they had two ships burnt, one of which was blown up, with a number of men. Red Bank, quite destroyed, is famous for standing the attack made by General Kniphausen, before which fell six hundred Hessians with the famous Count Denaub [Donop]. After refreshing ourselves we came on board and set off with afternoon tide and almost a head wind.

“ON BOARD THE —

“Oct^r 4th 1781.”

[LETTER 205.]

“On Friday morning last we found ourselves opposite to the mouth of Christiana Creek, when a few of us went up and landed near the ferry and walked up to Wilmington, where we found Lieut. Col. Mentges, Major Moore and several officers who had come down on horseback. I went to see Mr. Devenport’s family from Georgetown, where I breakfasted. I likewise went to see an old Mr. Broom, whose son you have heard me mention, who kindly received me and would make me stay to drink a Sling with him, of which he is very fond.

“I had the offer of a horse to ride to Christiana Bridge and let the vessel pass, and remained with the company, we stayed to Dinner, and with drinking wine and bitters, and Punch before Dinner, and Punch and wine at and after Dinner, the most of the company got pretty full. About 3

o'clock we mounted and rode to the Bridge, only stopping to drink a double Bowl of Punch on the way.—At night the most of the company *kept it up* at Doudles, where we sup'd and stay'd all night, and breakfasted next morning.

“One vessel load of troops was stationed in the town; on Saturday night three of them deserted and stole and carry'd off with them a horse of Col. Craig's, one of Major Moore's and one of Captain Bankson's. Last night all the vessels arrived; this morning the troops landed, marched about a mile beyond the town, and drew provisions, the wagons are loaded and we expect to march off about 11 o'clock for the Head of Elk, which is about ten miles from this.

“Christiana Creek makes up from the Delaware about forty miles below Philadelphia; it is a fine bold creek. Large square rigg'd vessels come up to Wilmington. The Brandywine Creek empties into this within two miles of the mouth. This Creek is famous all over America for its Merchant Mills, seven of them being built within 150 yards of each other—and the vessels load and unload at the mills. Wilmington is a fine borough, has a number of regular streets, a Court House, Market house, and contains about 5 or 600 houses, a number of which are very good—with a fine Academy on the Hill. You may have a beautiful prospect of the town from the Delaware, as it is built on a side hill, and from the town a beautiful prospect of the Christiana Creek, which is not very broad, but large sea schooners may run up it near twenty five miles, to a place where a bridge is built across, and a town which is called by the name Christiana Bridge. The town is small and ill built, containing 50 houses, some of which are very good; it is a place of trade, by reason of the transportation of goods from this place to and from the Head of Elk.

“We marched off from Christiana Bridge and arrived at this place late this afternoon, and encamped near the town, to draw provisions and wait for vessels to transport us to Baltimore.

“HEAD OF ELK, MARYLAND,
“Oct 7, 1781.”

[LETTER 206.]

“On Monday and Tuesday last we lay still at the Head of Elk. The town is small, not containing more than 20 Dwelling-houses and they much scattered. This is a principal place of conveyance for goods across from the Chesapeake Bay to the Delaware, being but 12 miles land carriage, when it would be six hundred miles to go round. It was agitated to cut a Canal from a branch of the Bohemia to St. George’s Creek on the Delaware, which is about eight miles from *Tide to Tide*, and would have been done had not this war commenced.

“On the 10th we embarked on the Kitty, James Jackson, master, for Baltimore. We was left aground when the fleet set sail; got off in the night and overtook them at Cecil Court House the 11th in the morning. We cast anchor and went on shore, where I saw several of my acquaintances from Georgetown, and tho’ within eight miles of it could not go to see my friends there.

“The 12th lay off the mouth of Sassafras River in Chesapeake Bay.

“*Sat. 13th.*—Beat down with the wind at south west—at the lower end of Poole Island the wind blew so hard we was obliged to put about and stand before it, we in a little time made Worton River, the mouth of which is a good harbour. But the wind shifting suddenly to northwest blew a storm, Set in to the Worton and we had nearly been cast away tho’ in harbour; the wind abated for a few minutes of which we took the advantage and ran up to a safe harbour.

“I went on shore and dined with Mr. Duke Tilden, who informed me of the arrival of Capt. Giles Hicks. (Mentioned in Vol VI. Letter —.) I am informed by him that as he was going to the Island of Tobago in the West Indies, he was taken by the French fleet and brought by them into this Bay, and being known by his Excellency Gen^l Washington, has got permission to come to this place to see his Aunt Chaloners. I wrote to him from Mr. Tilden’s.

"*Sun: the 14th.*—Capt. Patterson drew provisions from Chestertown, which is within 8 miles from this place, our men having been out for several days.

"The 15th and this day, the wind has continued ahead; our vessel being too deeply laden, we impressed Mr. Gilbert Backson from Georgetown, and I with part of the company ship'd ourselves on board his vessel, the *Molley*, and shall leave this as soon as we can.

"We dined and spent the afternoon with Mr. Peconee, who treated us very genteely, and pres'd us to spend the evening and stay all Night with him, which we could not do, as we were waiting for a wind.

"ON BOARD THE MOLLEY

"WORTON HARBOUR

"EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND

"Oct' 16, 1781."

[LETTER 207.]

"On the morning of the 17th we set sail with a west wind, which is almost ahead, and was all the day beating over to the Western shore.

"On the morning of the 18th, we run down with a North Wester to the mouth of the Potapsco river, and the wind being ahead we landed at North Point, left part of our Baggage, and marched up to Baltimore town, sixteen miles in about four hours. We got to town about 9 o'clock at Night. I got my men in quarters and put up at Mr. Grant's, at the sign of the Fountain, the first Tavern in the place.

"On Friday the 19th I dined with Mr. Fell at his Mansion House at *Fell's Point*, and in the afternoon rode out with him in a carriage to take a view of Baltimore town. We took a circuit almost round it and from some of the neighboring heights I had a full view of it. Some of the inhabitants of Baltimore will tell you that it is nearly half as large as Philadelphia, but you may depend upon it, that it is not one eighth as large. Impartially I believe it to be about the size of the Northern Liberties of Philadelphia, which is from Vine

street upward—And Fell's Point is situated very much like Kensington, but thicker settled, with two bridges going to it in the same manner.

“The town is built on a low uneven piece of ground, the streets are not paved—in wet weather very muddy and in dry, dirty, very disagreeable in either. The Market house is on one side of the street, under an old Court House, and contains twelve stalls, and about eight board Shambles. I made it my business to attend to see their market, which was tolerable full, but in great confusion, as most of the country people remain in their waggons with their produce, and a number of butchers with their beef in carts in quarters, who will cut a piece off any where for you without regard to the [*torn*].

“There is no Public Buildings here of any note, except an unfinished Church and State House, as it is called, which is no other than a genteel Court House. Some of the streets are very regular and wide, but many winding and turning as the first comers happen'd to build; there is a number of genteel houses in the place but none elegant.

“Mr. Fell where I now make my home, is a gentleman of princely fortune. I got acquainted with him at Philadelphia and he has kindly invited me to make his house my home as long as I remain in the place. The whole of the place called Fell's Point belongs to him, which in a short time will be the place of trade; it is now one fourth as large as Baltimore. He is at this time laying the remainder out in lots to be sold, leased or rented. A great estate has fell to him in Philadelphia and if he gets his due a great part of Baltimore will be his. This must be the place of trade, because the large vessels can go no higher up than the Point, and are obliged to load and unload here. On account of the filling up of the Basin, which is before the town, within these few years past, this is what is called the North Branch of the Potapscow, and is an inlet which makes up about two miles and is twelve miles from the Bay.

“BALTIMORE TOWN,
“Oct^r 20th 1781.”

[LETTER 208.]

“ On Saturday the 20th, in the forenoon, I went with an old acquaintance of ours from Georgetown known to you as *Rosanda*, who was much surprised and would scarcely believe her own eyes and senses that I was alive, for she had long since heard and took it for granted that I was dead. However, I have convinced her to the contrary, and she seemed to be very happy to find out her mistake. I drank Tea and spent the evening with her.

“ *On Sun: 21.*—This morning to my unspeakable joy, I saw the copy of a Letter from the Count d’Grasse to the Governor of Maryland, giving him an account of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis with all the army under his command at York, in Virginia. I was somewhat mortified to think, that I had been eighteen days on our way to that place and by misfortune could not be there. It is very remarkable that on the same day, of the same month, (that is the 17th of Octobr, 77), that Burgoyne surrendered with his army at Saratoga, so on the 17th of Oct’ ’81 has Lord Cornwallis surrendered with all the British, Refugees, Negroes Torys &c., under his command at York in Virginia. You shall have the particulars as soon as I can get them. I congratulate you on the above good news!

“ We have had a very bad passage to this place, was cast away in the Bay, and Col. Craig supposing us lost, went off and left us. He left Baltimore on the 16th instant. I marched with my men down to the Fort, and quartered them in the Barracks, which are in tolerable repair. Capt. Patterson is left in town in order to prepare for our departure. I promised to write to you from this place and am happy my first carrys agreeable news.

“ FORT BALTIMORE,

“ Oct’ 22, 1781.

“ P.S.—There is to be a *Feau d’ Joy* at Baltimore this Day.”

[LETTER 209.]

[The first part of this letter is missing.]

“In the evening the Town and Fell’s Point were elegantly illuminated—what few houses that were not, had their windows broke. About eight o’clock got tired and went to Mr. Fell’s (where I made my home) who had a genteel Ball and Entertainment for the Ladies and gentlemen at the Point. Capt. Gasseway and myself were introduced to the company, where we danced and spent the night until 3 o’clock in the morning of the 23^d, as agreeably as we could wish—As the ladies were very agreeable, and the whole company seemed to enjoy themselves perfectly, and indeed seemed to be carry’d away beyond themselves on this happy occasion.

“This day Captain Patterson being unwell gave up the command to me, I have exerted myself and shall be ready to sail tomorrow morning.

“FELL’S POINT, MARYLAND,
“Oct 25 1781.”

[LETTER 210.]

“*Thurs. Oct. 25th.*—I fell down with the schooners Nancey and Juliet to the Fort and took our men on board. I waited till four o’clock in the afternoon for Capt. Patterson, and then set sail without him. The wind being ahead we beat down the River and made a harbour in Rock Creek.

“On the 26th with a light breeze [*torn*] North Point, took our baggage on board. Dine with a gentleman where we left our baggage, and set sail about four o’clock in the afternoon with a fair wind.

“This vessel is small but runs very fast, so that on the morning of the 27th instant I found myself in harbour in Miles River below Kent Island, where I gave the Skipper leave to call in order to get a hand and put a sick man ashore.

“*Eastern Shore of Maryland.*—I walked up to the house of Mr. and Mrs. Tilghman (to whom our schooner belongs), he was lately a member of Congress. This gentleman lives

in an elegant old fashioned house, very genteely furnished, who was exceeding kind and entertained Mr. Legare (a Carolina gentleman) and myself with the utmost politeness. After a genteel breakfast he very politely waited upon us to the shore. We got under way about 10 o'clock with a fair wind at Northwest and proceeded on our way.

"On the 28th, in the afternoon, we arrived at the mouth of York river in Virginia, from which place I had a view of the French Fleet, which forms a line from the Eastern to the Western side of the Channel quite across and makes a grand appearance.

"ON BOARD YE NANCEY,

"OFF YORK RIVER, VIRGINIA,

"Oct. 28th, 1781.

[LETTER 211.]

"On the 28th instant I ran up York River to Yorktown, about 8 miles from the Bay, where I landed and walk'd up to the Encampment and made my report to Colonel Craig, and got his thanks for pushing on with the company.

"I landed and marched the company to camp within two miles of the town of York, on the morning of the 29th instant, and have once more joined the Regiment from which I was separated sixteen days, with sixty men and upwards, to the general joy of the whole, as they all supposed that we were lost in the storm.

"All the prisoners are sent off to the back parts of Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, except the officers, who are on Parole and have liberty to go where and when they please. Mr. Legare, a Carolina gentleman who came down with me from Baltimore, who is on his way to South Carolina, and would wish to proceed with the Army, I have invited to take part of my tent and he has consented. He is a gentleman who has been a Captain in one of the Carolina Regiments, and was made prisoner at Charleston, when it was taken, is since resigned and is now going home to his family.

"This day in town I met with Captain Sproat, who is very well, and exceeding happy to see me. He insisted on

my dining with him. About 12 o'clock I went to General Hand's Headquarters with him, who is very well, where I dined and spent part of the afternoon. The remainder I spent with the officers of the Line who were very happy to see me. The most of them appear to be in perfect health, after all the fatigues of campaign and siege.

"YORKTOWN,
"Oct 31, 1781."

[LETTER 212.]

"On the second instant, I went to take a view of the Lines and found them very grand. The enemy had the town piqueted all round very strongly. The town is small, not exceeding two hundred and fifty houses, the most of which were shot through like a riddle—some had the whole side burst out with the explosion of shells, and the whole at present in a ruinous state. At present all the small craft that can be had is Loading with the heavy artillery and ordnance stores, which are to be sent immediately to the Head of Elk by water. The town at present is entirely a scene of confusion—here you may see all putting backward and forward, and running one among another about their own business. British officers and French sailors, soldiers, marines, fatigue men, boatmen, British merchants, American Speculators, Jews and Infidels—Negroes, British wives, soldiers' trolls, with a song &c. So be-mixed, be-hurried, be-know'd, be-frightened and be-deviled, that nothing short of a [*torn*] or the pencil of a Hogarth could possibly do them justice to delineate or describe.

"Extract from the General Orders of the 30th ultimo :

"In pursuance of the Determination of a Board of Gen. Officers setting forth the means by which the officers of this Army may Receive a General Benefit from that Article of the Capitulation which intitles them to a right of [*torn*] in the possession of the [*torn*] in York and Gloucester at the time of the surrender of these parts—

"The Commander-in-Chief is pleased to direct that every officer who came here with the Army (coming under

the following description) receives on account of his pay to the Ammount of twenty Pounds (Dollars at 6 Shillings each) viz^t Gen^l Officers & their families and other military staff; Regimental officers, the officers of the Hospital, the Chaplains, the Q^r M^r Gen^l, the Com^r Genl. and their Deputies—That an officer from each Brigade be appointed to take up the Goods from the Traders for the officers of their respective Brigades, whose receipt shall intitle them to payment.’

“Since the above Order, we have been busied in purchasing and dividing the above. The merchants are allow’d one hundred per cent. on their goods from the Sterling cost, and then to be reduced into Currency.

“Every preparation is making for a movement from this place. I spent the afternoon with Major Sproat, who is aid to General Hand. He informs me that the whole Army will move for the Northward at the same time that we move off for the South.

“Three thousand French troops under the command of the Count Rochambeau, with a proper number of Shipping to protect the Harbour will be station’d at York this Winter, and as long next Spring as will suffice them to get up and repair the shipping that has been sunk and damag’d since the siege, fortunately the property of the Enemy, which amount to upward of one hundred sail.

“I am entirely reconciled to the march to Carolinas, as we are likely to have such a very pleasant season for it. The evenings are beginning to be a little cool here, and if we don’t hurry on, the Winter will be likely to overtake us.

“YORK, VIRGINIA,
“Nov. 4th 1781.”

[LETTER 213.]

“On the fifth instant about 9 o’clock the Gen^l beat and we marched off under the command of Major Gen. Arthur St. Clair. The detachment is composed of the Pennsylvania Line, the Maryland Troops that are here, a detachment of Virginians, a detachment of artillery with brass pounders

and Howitzers,—inch mortars, with a large quantity of Ordnance stores, Commissary, Qr. Mr. Gen^l Stores, with a quantity of clothing for the Southern Army—with these we marched and encamp'd within three miles of Williamsburg, on our way to join the Southern Army, under the command of General Greene. Being encumbered with such a quantity of waggons will cause us to move on very slow.

“On the 6th the Gen^l beat at sunrise. We encamped at Bird's Ordinary—the name given to the taverns in this country, and *ordinary* enough they are, God knows, and not worthy to be called a Tavern in any other country. We arrived at our ground in the afternoon.

“On the 8th moved on to Bottom Bridge, over the Chicohomeney, a small creek. During our four days march, we have come through a poor sandy country, thinly settled and the houses meanly built. Except Williamsburg, the Metropolis of Virginia, the town is not large, but very regular, the Governor's palace standing at one end and the capital at the other, of the Main street facing each about one quarter of a mile distant—both elegant buildings with wings; the streets are wide and houses large and contain about three hundred and fifty houses. The seat of [*torn*].

“The season here is very pleasant and the road good, and as yet we have had no scarcity of water.

“BOTTOM BRIDGE,
“Nov. 8th 1781.”

[LETTER 214.]

“On the 9th instant we marched at the same time as usual and arriv'd at this place about the middle of the afternoon, 13 miles, and encamp'd on a hill on the left of the town, a beautiful place with the James River in front. Richmond is now the seat of Government; the Governor's residence is an elegant [*torn*] situated on the bank of James River, just below the falls. The houses are principally on the main street, and no grand buildings in it. It contains about one hundred houses. There is two good Ordinaries in it, and two or three stores, but every thing extravagantly dear.

Such Sugar as might be purchased in Philadelphia for six pence, would cost you here eighteen.

“On the 10th instant, the Maryland Line crossed the James River opposite the town. On the 11th the artillery crossed with their stores in a heavy rain [*torn*].

“On the 13th [*torn*] the Battalion with their Baggage crossed the River and pitch’d on Manchester side of the River. Manchester is a small town opposite to Richmond, very irregularly built and contains about 40 houses, where the Enemy burnt a great number of stores, warehouses and inspecting houses with a great quantity of Tobacco in them, and took off a quantity of cattle, horses and negroes from the inhabitants.

“My fever has increased and the swelling in my face continued. I was invited by a Mr. Archer to stay at his house while I remained in Richmond. He keeps a store in the Town, keeps open house for all the officers who will favor him with their company [*torn*].”

[LETTER 215.]

“On the 17th cross’d the Appomatox river in boats—it appears to be much such a river as the Schuylkill above the Falls. At our place of crossing it was not more than 200 yards across. We encamped on the bank of the River just in the rear of Petersburg.

“The above is a small town built in a hollow or rather on a side hill, very irregular and ill built and contains about 50 houses. There is two Ordinarys and three stores in the town. Below this is a small town call’d Blandford on the river and contains 20 or 30 houses and store [*torn*]. The paper currency is still in circulation in this State—a State Currency that was struck to pass one for forty of the old Continental—now this is depreciated to such a degree that it is scarcely worth counting; it passes at this time twelve hundred to one Hard Dollar, which reduces the old Continental (tho’ not in circulation) to forty eight thousand for one. The hard money being so very plenty to the

northward, it has made its way here and now circulates very freely. I am in hopes the Continent will not be troubled with striking any more paper money.

"PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA,

"Nov. 18th 1781."

[LETTER 216.]

"On the 19th instant we march'd to Dinwiddie Court House and encamp'd near it. There was a large Assembly at the Court House as it was Term time with them.

"On the 20th we crossed Notaway River at Jones's Bridge and encamp'd on Jones's farms at the Beaver Pond, in Brunswick county. This is looked upon as a good country, and Dinwiddie has a number of elegant buildings in it and the people all good-livers. But Amelia County which joins this is still better, has a vast number of the first families living in it, the ladies of which have made themselves famous by an Association they enter'd into early in the war, 'That they were determined to live single 'till the conclusion of the war without they married an officer of the Army or one who had served their Country in a public manner since the commencement of the War.' I am told by men who have seen them, that the ladies are very genteel, handsome and of the first families in Virginia, who are of this Association. I must confess I should have been very happy to have seen girls who have discover'd so much Patriotism to the World.

"On the 21st we marched to Earle Edmund's farm. In the morning before we march'd off a Duel was fought in the Maryland Line between Captain Menzie and Ensign Bettis—each fired and miss'd; fired the second time and miss'd; the third fire the Ensign shot Capt. Menzie thro' the head, of which he died immediately. The officers had a hole dug and buried him on the spot in his clothes, and march'd off without further ceremony. He had used Bettis very ill, who has since been ordered to take his command, and no further notice is taken of it. Congress and the Legislative body have used every means in their power to stop dueling [torn].

“On the 22d continued our march, crossed Mahoming creek over a high bridge to Mitchel’s Ordinary, and encamp’d in a poor neighborhood.

“On the 23d we proceeded on our march, passed Miller’s Ordinary, crossed Miles Creek, and encamp’d on Sir Peyton Skipper’s [Skipwith] farms in the heart of a good country, in Mecklenburgh County. For three nights past we have had hard frost and ice a quarter of an inch thick; I am much afraid we shall be overtaken by the Winter, as it seems to come on faster than we march.

“The common inhabitants of Virginia dress in a very particular manner. The men with little round hats, coarse mixed grey Jackets, breeches of the same, and all of them wear what they call Leggins, which is a piece of cloth. Kersey Ticking [*torn*]. The women [*torn*] Bonnet on their head. If it is made of any other stuff and of the Bonnet shape, they have them so small that they appear ridiculous. The people in general have a pale, sickly appearance, inclining to the Yellowish color. Their remark upon us is, that they never saw such a set of Red-Black looking men in all their lives.

“Their Negroes tho’ not at this season of the year, are almost naked in general—some of them quite as naked as they were born, came into our camp to look for pieces of old clothes. I don’t know how they reconcile this treatment of their slaves with their liberal principles of hospitality, when a trifle of expense would give them some kind of coarse clothes to cover their nakedness [*torn*].

“SKIPPER’S [SKIPWITH] FARMS,

“Nov. 23^d 1781.”

[LETTER 217.]

“On the 24th, we march’d from Sir Peyton Skipper’s [Skipwith] farms to the banks of the Roanoke. We began to cross the River immediately and by 4 o’clock in the afternoon the Pennsylvania Line and baggage was all over and we encamp’d [*torn*] a number of fine buildings near its Bank. Below this, I am informed, occupied by a set of very genteel inhabitants. . . .

“On the 25th, the Artillery and stores crossed the River.

“On the 26th, a fresh and high wind hindered the crossing of the Maryland Line. . . .

“On the 30th the Maryland Line crossed the River in the rain. This day I dined with Col. Craig, in company with General St. Clair and his family. My guest, Capt. Legare, has provided himself with a horse, and has joined the Cavalry, where he has acquaintances, and can have his *Beast* properly provided for.”

[Balance of this letter and also Letters 218, 219, 220, 221, and 222 are missing.]

[LETTER 223.]

“On the Seventh instant finding I was not likely to be furnish'd with Quarters, Doctor King invited me to live with him for the remainder of the time I have to stay. . . . I live here exceeding happy, having nothing to do but visit my men, and recreate myself with the guns, etc.

“The Doctor is young, and exceeding good company, that the time passes Insensibly away, and I shall scarcely miss it as it flies.

“WILLIAMSBOROUGH N. C.

“De^e 30th 81.”

[LETTER 224.]

“On the 30th ultimo I accompanied Mr. George King, brother to the Doctor, to have the matrimonial knot tied. The young lady is daughter to a Mr. Le Nier, a gentleman of a good family in the neighbourhood. She stood the Ceremony with a very good grace; the company was not numerous, but genteel; the evening was spent in supping and dancing.

“On the first instant the company adjourn'd, to the Doctor's, with great additions, among the rest was three South Carolina officers, who have been prisoners, and are now on their way to join the Army. We had a very genteel dinner, after which we enter'd upon Dancing and kept it up till late in the evening. I think the Bride looks much improved;

I would advise the ladies of my acquaintance, to try the experiment, that is if they want a good colour. It is something like putting out to Sea, tho' numbers are shipwreck'd (often by their own imprudence) yet so great a propensity have we all for Matrimony, that we are willing to try our fortune and see if our voyage will not turn out more prosperous.

"WILLIAMSBOROUGH, N. C.

"Jan. 5th, 1782."

[LETTER 225.]

"On the morning of the 6th instant I mounted my Rosnetta and scampered to Mr. Le Nier's, where I expected comp'y (Messers George and Edward King) on my way to the town of Halifax. Before I got six miles on the way, I found Rosnetta to be an arrant Scoundrel and would take advantage of me upon all occasions. I was in a fine humour and in full flow of spirits,—they carrying me at the rate of ten knots an hour, and my horse only going at the rate of three and a half; and that with the greatest difficulty, sometimes whip, sometimes spur, often both. Only figure to yourself, my situation, when I would willingly have gone on so rapidly, to be kept back, harras'd, and hinder'd, by a perverse lump of clay who would not be brought to join with me, neither by fair means or foul. Like many dull readers who will never enter into the spirit of any author nor can they be beat into it.—Thy Soul, said I, must have belonged to some cold, phlegmatic Pedagogue (please to allow me transmigration), who in his life would neither lead nor drive. I coaxed him, he went too slow, I whipp'd, 'twas all the same, I pricked him with my spur, (as the Yankee girl said) —he minded it no more.

"I would give thee (as a punishment) to a Mahomedan to ride or an Indian pagan. No! I recall that. I think I see the Courtious *Brahmin* advancing from the mouth of thy cave, thro' a pleasant Grove, in an inviteing posture, and with a benevolent aspect; entreating me a stranger to walk in, and share thy homely fare. Generous soul! when I had

come there on purpose to insult thee. Happy man ! would that our Christians would follow thy example. No !—God forbid that such a man should ride on such a Horse ! well then I'll ride thee myself, said I, and to it *Whip* and *Spur*. A punishment indeed !

“It would have made you laugh, to have seen us at our repast, three gentlemen on a journey, sitting by the roadside, on an old log, breaking our fast, on bacon and bread, and bread and bacon. 'Twas like the knight of the Woe-full Countenance seeking melancholly adventures ; and not much unlike him was I mounted. 'Tis the Custom of the Country.

“As we were coming up to an Ordinary, my poney prick'd up his ears and trotted up to it very lively. If that is the case, I wish you always had a house before you.

“A bowl of Grog was called for. The fellow came out to us with the half of it in a small pewter basin, and as he was sensible it was too strong, he was prepared with a little gourd full of water. ‘Pray sir, why did you not make it in a bowl?’—‘I have none.’ ‘A mugg?’ ‘none either’—‘you shall have it at will Gentlemen.’ We must dismount. I had but a mean opinion of the house from the outward appearance, which was ten times worse when I saw the inside ;—a crazy table, four old chairs, two of these without seats, and the little basin, composed the whole furniture of the house ;—in fact, it looked as if they were just going to run away from it. His *bar* was a shelf in a dark corner, on which stood a pail of water, a bottle and a horn gill measure, which was a rough piece of horn, which no doubt he had made to suit his own interest. The mistress of the family, was of a pale, sallow complexion, of middle stature. Instead of being the ornament of the family, she looked as if some person had thrown her clothes at her, (comparatively speaking) for they were on in no kind of form. Three or four of the inhabitants of the lower class had collected here, and tho' it was remarkably warm for the season, they were sitting round a tolerable fire drinking hot Eggnog out of a little gourd, enough to roast their souls out. But I suppose

they thought any thing the best that would make them soonest drunk, for in that, the happiness of numbers (here) consist. God help them thought I! As I was preparing to pay my pistereen for the Grog, I heard a confused cry of 'whoa!—whoa!!—whoa!!!—d—n you!!!' What should it be but my horse, who among the rest of his failings, will forever slip his bridle (if possible) and here the consequence had like to have proved fatal to the house. I had tied him to the post of the piazza, and as three posts out of five were loose with his pulling, the whole was like to have come down.

"When we came within ten miles of our intended stage for the day, on enquireing the way, our old fellow undertook to direct us a near way by which we should gain several miles. 'You must go' said he, 'round my field,' ('twas about the size of a large hog-pen) 'go round my field, and you will come into a cart-path, (for all are paths in this country) and that will take you about four miles through the woods, and then you will come into a great cart-path, and turn up that about one hundred yards to the right and there the road forks; you must take to the left, cross two bridges and then turn up to Col. Willis Alston's house.'

"The direction was so plain you would have taken it yourself. 'Is there no Road to turn us out of the way?' 'No, none at all.' The event proved him a liar, before we got out of sight of his house. We thought it the only one, we followed it about two hundred yards, went back and took the other. For about six miles we had to stop and hold a council over the forks, and cross-ways, two or three times a mile. The Devil take such directions! We came across a little house in the wood and enquired for directions; the fellow said he believed it to be about four miles, but he was a stranger in that part, as he had lived there only three years. Thou must be an unsociable Soul to live three years in a place and not know thy neighbors within four miles. Happily we met a little boy about ten years of age, who gave proper directions. The old fellow was wrong; the second was wrong; and they were all wrong, but this boy.

I was vexed! When we came to the main road a young lady passed us at half speed, I saw she was very handsome, and followed. We had a chase of near half a mile; she was very handsome, and in the language of the country, *Clever*. She gave me the directions I required, in a soft voice and a most engageing accent, and posted off with her servant at the same half speed. If I had had a heart to lose, I believe she would have taken it with her. We arrived an hour after dark; the most tedious travelling that I ever experienced, is when you don't know the way, nor have light enough to see it; we went on by guess. Not the sweetest music that I ever heard, was half so pleaseing to me, as the cackling of the geese was that evening, when we was in a dark road, and neither of us knew the way out.

"We were Joyfully Receiv'd by Col. and Mrs. Alston,—Mr. King was her relation. I was treated in a very, very friendly manner by the family.

"HALIFAX, N. C.

"Jan^r 7th 82."

(To be continued.)